

CABIN

DRAWER 11A

PIGEON CREEK

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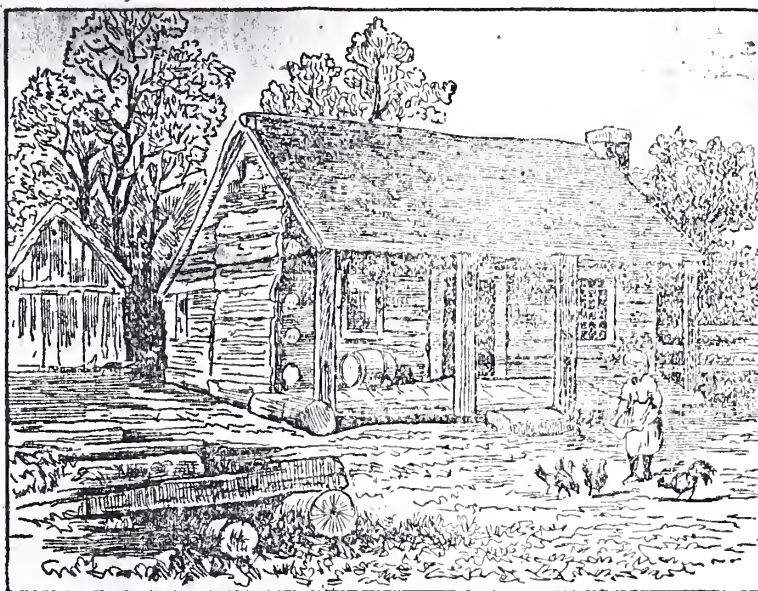
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Indiana Pigeon Creek

Cabin

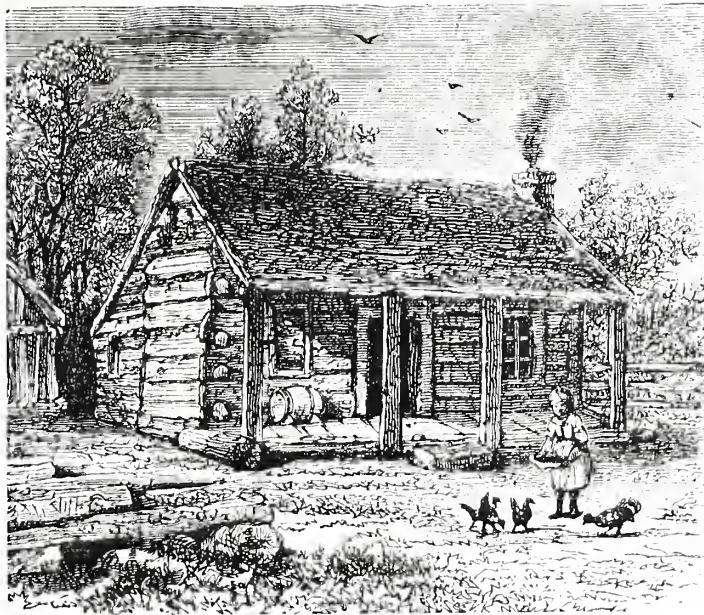
Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



EARLY HOME OF LINCOLN, GENTRYVILLE, IND.

6-24-1928



ABRAHAM LINCOLN's parents, in March, 1830, moved from their forest home in what is now Spencer County, Indiana, to Illinois, settling ten miles west of Decatur, where they built a log house on the north fork of the Sangamon, and cleared fifteen acres of land, for the fencing of which Abraham split the rails. He was then just approaching twenty-one years of age, six feet four inches tall, and the champion wrestler of the neighborhood. After attaining his majority he spent a year or two working at odd jobs for the farmers, and made his first public speech; it was on the navigation of the Sangamon River, on which waters he soon afterward launched a flat-boat, and, with his half-brother, navigated it to New Orleans. This early home of the sixteenth President of the United States is shown in the cut above.

7th Mo. JULY. 31 days.

Year	Day	Month	Week	Day	Noon, Wash'ton M. Time.	Sun Rises	Sun Sets	Moon Sets	Phases
182	1	Th			12 3 35	4 27	7 41		
183	2	Fr			12 3 47	4 27	7 40	8 13	
184	3	Sa			12 3 58	4 28	7 40	9 2	
					Second Sunday aft. Trinity.				
185	4	S			12 4 9	4 28	7 40	9 15	
186	5	M			12 4 19	4 29	7 40	10 24	
187	6	Tu			12 4 29	4 30	7 39	10 59	
188	7	W			12 4 39	4 30	7 39	11 33	
189	8	Th			12 4 49	4 31	7 39	mo	11
190	9	Fr			12 4 58	4 32	7 38	0 6	
191	10	Sa			12 5 6	4 32	7 38	1 11	
					Third Sunday aft. Trinity.				
192	11	S			12 5 14	4 33	7 37	1 47	
193	12	M			12 5 22	4 34	7 37	1 56	
194	13	Tu			12 5 29	4 35	7 36	2 58	
195	14	W			12 5 36	4 36	7 36	3 25	
196	15	Th			12 5 42	4 36	7 35	4 45	1
197	16	Fr			12 5 48	4 37	7 34	7 41	
198	17	Sa			12 5 53	4 38	7 34	8 21	
					Fourth Sunday aft. Trinity.				
199	18	S			12 5 57	4 39	7 33	8 56	
200	19	M			12 6 2	4 40	7 32	9 27	
201	20	Tu			12 6 5	4 41	7 32	9 55	
202	21	W			12 6 8	4 42	7 31	10 23	
203	22	Th			12 6 11	4 43	7 30	10 52	
204	23	Fr			12 6 13	4 43	7 29	11 22	



Nat. Mag. Feb 17 27

LINCOLN FARM

This picture shows fields of the Little Pigeon Creek country which are said to have been cleared by the Lincolns.

(Statement of Elijah Grigsby to J.B.MacHarg, 1929)

THE HOMESTEAD MARKER AT LINCOLN CITY, INDIANA

This monument marks the site of the cabin shown in the last two pictures. Brtn. I-112,122.



Site of Lincoln cabin



Fields of Little Pigeon Creek (said to have been cleared by the Lincolns) - Elijah Grigsby to J.B. MacHarg, 1929

Indianapolis, Ind. 6/10/33.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Mr. Warren:—

I received my Lincoln Love Bulletin of the 29th ult., and I see in it a statement that I positively know is an egregious chronological error.

At the top of the third column thereof, it reads, "It was sold by the owners of the Lincoln farm in 1871 and at that time occupied the original site." That is absolutely a mistake.

We, then, railroad graders, came to the Lincoln farm, to work on the grade of the line then building from Rockport through that farm on northward. We labored there about 9 months.

We boarded with a schoolmate of Abe's, named James Grigsby. He led us to the cabin site and also to Nancy Hanks' grave in November 1870, and there was no cabin there then. I remember it very well, for I was 16 years old then. On the surface of the hillside was a quadrangular outline of thoroughly rotten, mud-sill, medium-sized logs, 75% punk. The upper logs must have been removed several years before, but I don't know when, but, in 1870, they were to me very conspicuous by their absence then.

It is not a momentous matter, but I thought I would inform you. Yours truly, A. M. Sweeney.

June 12, 1933

Mr. A. M. Sweeney
312 East 13th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

My dear Mr. Sweeney:

Thank you very much for calling to our attention the apparent chronological error in our Lincoln Lore bulletin of the 29th. Our source of information is the deed book of Spencer County, Indiana, from which I excerpted the following paragraph from the body of the deed "The whole tract excepting and reserving the log house known as the Lincoln house, which stands on the west half of the first described tract of land and which was built by Abraham Lincoln and his father, Thomas, and which has been heretofore sold." There is a bare possibility I may have miscopied the date, but the date which I have on my record appears to be November 28, 1871.

There is some further possibility that some mistake may have been made in recording this deed; it would seem to me that the owner of the property in selling the land should have known whether or not the tavern was standing at that time on the property he was selling.

Unless I discover that I have made some mistake in copying this deed, it appears I will have to abide by the official court records. As the many traditions which we have about the cabin's removal are so conflicting, no harmony can be brought out of them.

It interests me very much, however, to know that you were there in 1871 and I shall file your letter with very much interest and on my first occasion try and test the accuracy of my copying of the date of the record.

I am wondering if you recall whether or not there was a marker of any kind on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at the time you were working there, and, if so, what kind of a marker it was. That seems to be another point in which there is a great deal of difference in opinion and a subsequent issue of Lincoln Lore will discuss this.

Mr. A. M. Sweeney

2.

June 12, 1933

Thanking you very much for your information,
I am

Respectfully yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LINCOLN'S INDIANA HOME

"On the southwest slope of this knoll, they made their camp," writes Ida M. Tarbell of the first Lincoln home in Indiana in her "Boy Scouts' Life of Lincoln," in the February Boys' LIFE. "It was what the woodsman knows as a half-faced camp. Two strong straight trees about fourteen feet apart, standing to the east and west, were chosen and trimmed and hewn to serve as corner posts. The east, west and north sides were then enclosed in log cabin fashion, a lighter timber being cut then for a permanent building. These sides were made tight with clay, the roof with sod and branches of trees. There was no chimney in the half-faced camp, but in front on the open south side a big fireplace was made, and here a fire was kept burning night and day, whatever the weather, as a guard against prowling wolves, bears and wildcats.

"Most of the cooking was done in what was known as the Dutch oven, a large iron pot, standing on three long legs and furnished with an iron cover and a handle. A big bed of coals was raked in front of the high pile of logs which were always burning in the fireplace, and on these the pot was placed. No better cooking utensil was ever devised for stew or roast than the Dutch oven, but you must have a bed of coals, such as only a fireplace will give.

"A half-faced camp could be made livable, even in winter, except under two conditions—when a south wind blows the smoke into the shelter and when a drenching rain soaks everything, inside and out. Then camp life becomes a test of courage and cheerfulness. Before the winter was over the Lincoln family often had to suffer this test."

A NEW CAMP

THE HALF-FACED CAMP

Even when a small boy Abe Lincoln
"knew a way"



LITTLE Sally Lincoln shivered as she peered into the dark woods behind the half-faced camp.

"I'm afraid to go," she said, half to herself and half to her seven-year-old brother, Abe, who stood beside her. "But I—I'm going. You see, Abe, we can't do a thing without water to drink and to cook with."

Abe nodded. "If we had a bucket of water Mother could make some tea of checkerberry leaves. I'm hungry, Sally. Wish I had something to eat and a mug of hot checkerberry tea this minute."

Sally's voice broke a little as she answered him. "I'm hungry too, Abe, and so are Father and Mother. But the meal is 'most gone and we mustn't make a fuss. Father can do something about it when the camp is finished."

Tom Lincoln, father of Abe and Sally, was putting brush on the roof of the pole shed which they called the "half-faced camp". He had just built this camp on the claim in southern Indiana where their home was to be. They had all helped to build it; even the two children had cut brush and brought dried grass to help make the roof tight.

"I'll have it done by dark," Tom Lincoln called to his wife, who was dragging up

brush. "It's going to rain when night falls and we shall want to be under cover."

Sally glanced quickly at the darkening sky. Yes, it did look like rain. She ran to a heap of household goods which had been piled under a tree. From the heap she picked out a big bucket. The spring was a mile off through thick woods but she had been there twice with her mother and knew the way.

"If only Abe was big enough to go with me," she said to herself, "maybe I'd forget

By

MABEL S. MERRILL

about being scared. Having company makes a difference."

She turned into the faintly marked trail that led away through the forest. There were wild creatures in that wilderness, she knew. On the hundred-mile journey to this new home they had seen bears and wildcats, and heard wolves howl.

"But we've got to have water and there's nobody to go for it but me," the girl kept saying to herself as she walked swiftly along.

Every sound in the underbrush made her heart jump. When she heard the thudding of small running feet behind her she wanted to scream and rush into the bushes. But instead she turned to look. Then she laughed joyfully. It was little Abe, hurrying along the trail with a bucket half as big as himself.

Sally knelt down to hug him and they laughed together.

"If I see a bear I'll holler so loud that he'll run like a fox," declared Abe.

But a little later when they did see a bear, neither one of the children had breath to cry out. They were so astonished at the sight of that great shaggy creature, standing straight and tall like a man, that they just stood and stared while the bear did the same.

"He's so big I guess he wouldn't mind a little holler like mine," whispered Abe. "But I know a way to make him run."

Leaning halfway over beside the path was a great dead

and ready to fall at a touch. Abe caught one of the hanging branches and swung his small weight on it. Down came the tree with a crash and away went the bear with a startled grunt.

Abe and Sally, who had jumped nimbly out of the way of the falling tree, laughed and ran the rest of the distance to the spring. There they rested a little and drank of the clear, sweet water from their cupped hands.

"Now we must hurry," cried Sally. "It's 'most dark and beginning to rain just as Father said it would."

It rained hard as they went back through the woods. The big buckets brimming with water were heavy for small arms. Sally had told Abe that they could not take both buckets home because one was as much as they could lift between them. But Abe said he "knew a way" to carry both buckets. First they carried one bucket along between them till their arms ached, and then set it down and ran back and brought the other one. Then they started off again with the first bucket and again they set it down and went back for the second.

They did this all the way home and would not give up even when a wildcat screamed in the woods. They kept their courage up by telling each other how pleased Mother Lincoln would be to have all that good water to use.

When they came in sight of the camp they were drenched with rain and so tired they could hardly stand straight.

"I b'lieve I'm hungrier than that old bear ever was," said Abe. "And I guess there's nothing much to eat. Well, anyhow, Mother will make us some checkerberry tea before we go to bed."

It was raining harder than ever when they tugged the two buckets of water up to the open side of the camp. Then their hearts gave a great leap of surprise and delight.

Father Lincoln had finished the camp and had made the roof tight against the storm. All the household goods had been carried inside, and the beds of dry leaves in the corners looked inviting. Mrs. Lincoln had laid out dry clothes for Abe and Sally. The whole place was warm and cosy with the great fire of logs that burned in front of the opening.

Best of all, a big wild turkey was roasting over the fire and Father Lincoln was rolling hot baked potatoes out of the ashes.

He came to take one of the buckets of water which they had set down for a moment. Abe picked up the other and tugged it towards the camp.

His mother laughed as she went out to meet him.

"Abraham Lincoln," she said, "you're spunky for your size. Now jump into your dry clothes and see how much roast turkey



Abe and Sally were so astonished at the sight of the bear that they

THE INDIANA LINCOLN UNION

~~126 STATE HOUSE~~

INDIANAPOLIS

~~RILEY 3586~~

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534 Illinois Bldg.

June 11, 1934.

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PAUL V. BROWN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:-

While excavating at the Lincoln cabin site, Lincoln City, for the foundations of the memorial fireplace we are going to erect there, our state park camp superintendent, Mr. Oren Reed, found evidence of the Lincoln homestead occupancy at this exact site. He advises me that he has carefully preserved and noted the location of all objects found, including hearthstones, bits of crockery, etc.

We are, however, very anxious that you inspect this evidence at the site at your very earliest convenience and give us your recommendations as to just what should be done about it. If we can be of any assistance in transporting you to Lincoln City, please advise.

Yours very truly,



Paul V. Brown, Exc. Secretary,
The Indiana Lincoln Union.

PVB:EP

Indianapolis news 2-12-35

LINCOLN HEARTHSTONES TO BE RELAI D AS FOUND

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., February 12 (Spl.)—Hearthstones of the original Indiana Thomas Lincoln cabin, in which Abraham Lincoln spent seven years as a boy, lay in a service shed of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial here today.

It was the first birthday of the great civil war President since the stones were found. They were dug up last June by Civilian Conservation Corps workers.

As they were dug up the stones were numbered so they may be replaced in the original order. Their placing has been delayed waiting arrival of bronze sill logs for the reconstruction of the Thomas Lincoln cabin around them. Fireplace logs also will be of bronze.

The stones will be relaid in a "T" shape, the same as they were found, to serve as a chimney base as well as a hearth. They number about 150.

Lincoln State park gradually is being built up about the Lincoln Memorial by reforestation, landscaping and other developing. When completed, the state government will have a 1,166-acre memorial to the revered Lincoln and his family.

HOW A HUMBLE C.C.C. WORKER MADE A PRICELESS FIND

TO an unnamed World War veteran—now a worker in a Government CCC camp—goes the honor of uncovering a priceless piece of Americana.

Quite by chance, recently, he dug up the stones of the very hearth where the boy Abraham Lincoln sprawled on wintry nights to learn his reading and writing!

Historians for years have bemoaned the

fact that the hearthstones from the cabin where Lincoln spent his childhood in Spencer County, southern Indiana, were lost. Many efforts to find them were unsuccessful.

But a few months ago, CCC workers were sent into the Lincoln Memorial State Park, which surrounds the site of the old cabin, to clean away brush and erect a national shrine.

Only a crude stake marked the spot where the cabin once stood, and brush had over-run the hillside grave of

Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the Emancipator's mother. The workers, all World War veterans, first tidied up the grave, and now it is beautifully marked.

Next, a squad was sent to the cabin site, where a memorial is to be built. One worker's spade suddenly grated against stone. "Just buried rock," he muttered. But he dug deeper.

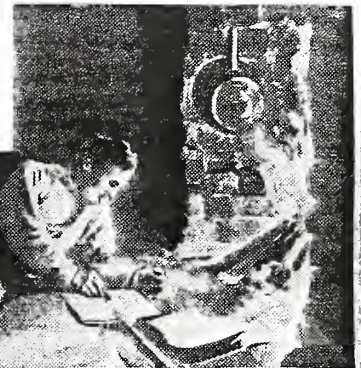
And, presently, he had dug up a number of stones, which were soon identified by historians as the missing hearthstones.

Now, men and women will bring

their children across the continent to stand before this hearth. It will be reconstructed in a bronze frame, to stand on the exact spot where the poor boy who became President fought against such great odds to educate himself.



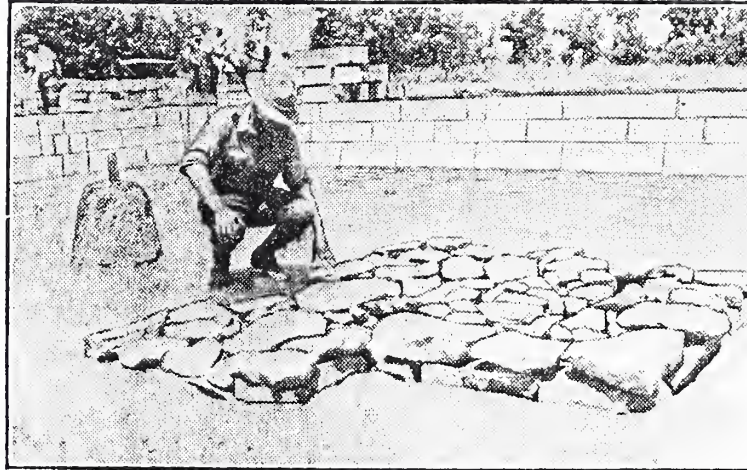
At Last the Hearthstones of the Cabin Where Abraham Lincoln Spent His Boyhood Have Been Found—by a Humble, Unnamed War Vet. Here Is a C. C. C. Camp Official Examining Them.



A Picture Classic; the Boy Lincoln, Sprawled Before the Cabin Hearthstone, Avidly Mastering the Mysteries of Readin' and Writin'. This Print Can Be Found in a Million American Homes.

FORT WAYNE, IND., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1935.

Lincoln Hearthstones Are Part Of State's Memorial



Stones Found at Site of Old Lincoln Home.

(Special to The News-Sentinel.)

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 12.—Hearthstones from the original Thomas Lincoln cabin, in which Abraham Lincoln spent seven years of his boyhood, form an important part of the state park which Indiana is creating in Spencer County as a memorial.

Along with the stones which mark the site of the Lincoln home, the memorial includes the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the President, and that of his sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby.

The hearth was uncovered by Civilian Conservation Corps workers during preparations for erecting a permanent marker at the cabin site. The stones, about 150 in number, will form a part of that marker which will represent the foundation logs of the cabin and the fireplace around which life of the Lincoln family centered. As shown above the stones were laid in the form of a "T," having formed the base of the chimney as well as the hearth.

Under supervision of the Department of Conservation, this area has been landscaped and the 1,166 acres composing the Lincoln State Park are being reforested. An artificial lake has been created, trails and roadways laid out and a water supply and other conveniences developed for the use of the thousands of persons who visit the park annually.



The Old Print Shop Inc.

Harry Shaw Newman

New York, N.Y.

March 13, 1935.

Lincolniara, on Approval to:
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Att.: Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry

6851	1	Assassination of President Lincoln, Ford's Theatre, Washington.....	
		Small folio lithograph by E. B. and E.C. Kellogg	\$10.00 —
4116	1	Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States. Small folio	
		lithograph by Kellogg	15.00 —
	1	General Grant at the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln. Small folio Currier	
		and Ives lithograph	10.00 —
6848	1	Abraham Lincoln, Republican Candidate for 16th President. Small	
		folio lithograph by E. B. and E.C. Kellogg	20.00 —
A	1	Abraham Lincoln Entering Richmond... Small black engraving after Hollis	
		by Buttre	1.50 —
A	✓1	small photogravure of Lincoln at door of negro's cabin	1.00 —
A	✓1	small black engraving of Lincoln	1.00 —
A	✓1	small black engraving of Lincoln and two men	1.50 —
A	✓1	small ditto "Lincoln Guard of Honor"	1.50 —
	1	Abraham Lincoln. Vignette black lithograph, small folio	5.00 —
	1	Lincoln the Lawyer. Photogravure	3.00 —
	✓1	Abraham Lincoln. Small folio black lithograph by Bufford.	7.50 —
	1	Abraham Lincoln, 16th President. Small folio oval. No publisher's name	5.00 ✓
	1	"""""" """""""" . Engraved by Ritchie after Brady	7.50 —
	1	Photogravure of Lincoln, beardless, seated, signed by Rowland	10.00 —
	1	Color print, oval, by Wynkoop	3.00 —
	1	Latest Photograph of Pres. Lincoln, by Warren	5.00 —
	✓1	Death of Pres. Lincoln. Small black wood engraving	.50 —
	✓1	Execution of the Lincoln Conspirators -- The Graves	1.00 —
	✓1	Ditto -- View of the Penitentiary	1.00 —
9497	✓1	Wash drawing of Joshua' Speed's Farm House	5.00 ✓
	1	Pen and ink drawing--House where Lincoln died, by F.C. Schell	15.00 —
	1	Ford's Old Theatre--pen and ink drawing by C.A. Vanderhoof	15.00 ✓
9886	1	Oil painting on canvas, naval and army parade, with Lincoln, by	
		Jay Hambidge	25.00 —
	1	Wash drawing, Lincoln and Naval Academy candidate, by. H.A. Ogden	25.00 —
	1	Oil painting, Lincoln at desk, by Hambidge	25.00 —
9475	1	Wash drawing, "Lincoln and the Workman", by W.A. Rogers	25.00 —
9936	1	Lincoln Signing the Emancipation, oil on board, by Hambidge	35.00 —
9286	1	Lincoln in General McClellan's Tent, oil by Hambidge	25.00 —
9567	1	Lincoln in the Telegraph Office. Oil by Hambidge	35.00 —

The Old Print Shop Inc.

Harry Shaw Newman

New York. N.Y.

March 13, 1935.

Page 2.....Lincolniana on memorandum to Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry

4809 1 Abraham Lincoln, Pres. of the United States. Small folio litho.
in black by Bufford.

\$7.00 —

✓ 1 Abraham Lincoln, Late President of the United States, Assassinated
April 14, 1865

3.00 ✓

✗ 4662 1 Log House Near Gentryville, Indiana. Colored lithograph

25.00 —

March 21, 1935

Mr. Harry Shaw Newman
The Old Print Shop, Inc.
150 Lexington Avenue
New York City.

Dear Mr. Newman:

We received your prints in good condition and
we have decided to keep the following:

Lincoln at door of negro's cabin	\$ 1.00 ✓
Engraving of Lincoln	1.00 ✓
Lincoln and two secretaries	1.50 ✓
Lincoln Guard Of Honor	1.50 ✓
Lincoln - Lithograph by Bufford	7.50 ✓
Death of Lincoln	.50 ✓
Execution of Lincoln Conspirators	1.00 ✓
View of the Penitentiary	1.00 ✓
Joshua 'Speed's Farm House	5.00 ✓
Abraham Lincoln Late President	3.00 ✓

Total \$ 23.00

As yet we have not decided on the Log House near
Gentryville, Indiana. This picture is priced at \$ 25.00 and
if we find that our appropriation will allow us to make the
purchase we will send you a check in a few days. If not we
shall return the picture.

Your other prints are being shipped to you today.
We had many of them in our collection. We thank you for letting
us see these items.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald McMurtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

May 13, 1933

Mr. Harry New Newman
The Old Print Shop, Inc.
150 Lexington Ave.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Newman:

You will find enclosed a check for the amount
of \$ 25.00 in payment for the picture # 4662 Log
House Near Contryville, Indiana.

We want to thank you for letting us keep this
picture all this time before sending you a check.

Yours Very Truly

B. Gerald McIntire Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

Boonville Engineer 10/36

Fortune Once Saw Lincoln Cabin

Hon. William Fortune, of Indiana, one of Indiana's greatest sons and a native of Boonville, chairman of the board of directors of the Press club, has been deeply interested in the club from the time it was organized.

Mr. Fortune delivered one of the principal addresses on the occasion of the seventh annual picnic of the club on July 13, 1930.

Mr. Fortune is one of the few men living in Indiana today who actually saw the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln lived at the present site of Lincoln City. When Fortune was a youth of 15 years he visited the Lincoln farm and his recollection of the cabin was vividly described by him in his address in 1930.

It is a great pleasure for Mr. Fortune to attend the annual picnics of the Press club and to meet and mingle with friends. He will help to entertain former United States Senator James E. Watson and other notables at the Press club picnic this year. In another part of this issue you will find a splendid picture of Mr. Fortune.

LINCOLN CANES THREATENED LANDMARK

Demand Nearly Resulted in Destruction of Famous Old Turnham Cabin

By MONTE M. KATTERJOHN
For the Sunday Courier and Press

DALE, Ind., Feb. 11.—Back in the elegant Eighties, walking canes said to have been made from rails split by young Abe Lincoln and from cabin timbers believed to have been shaped by his Hoosier ax, in the period from 1816-1830, came near destroying one of the Lincoln country's most prized landmarks.

It is the David Turnham frontier log cabin, built between 1816 and 1820 and now occupied by George Medcalf, 72. Thru him as occupant of the house wherein Lincoln lingered as a boy, and which he is said to have helped repair, the life of George Washington unites with the experiences of Abraham Lincoln.

"Uncle George" Medcalf is a blood descendant of the first President and a life-long worshiper at the shrine of Lincoln. His great grandfather was Joseph Leathco, a cousin of George Washington. Lavinia Ball of Virginia, Joseph Leathco's mother, was the daughter of William Ball, brother of Mary Ball Washington. It was her son George who "cut down the cherry tree."

The Medcalf and Leathco families united in Kentucky over a hundred years ago, following emigration from Virginia to Pennsylvania, and then to Fayette County, Ky. By 1830 when the Lincolns were departing from Indiana for the Sangamon's banks in Illinois, the Leathco and Medcalf families were settling in Indiana as guardians of the Spencer County soil which Lincoln had tilled.

The Medcalfs spread all thru this land of Lincoln's neighbors. One wing of the family knew "Honest Abe."

The weatherboarded log cabin which Lincoln helped to repair for his neighbor, David Turnham, has been George Medcalf's home for a quarter of a century. He guards it against vandals for the Lincoln Youth Library Association, and awaits the time when its quaint, old-fashioned two rooms and frontier hewn timbers will become intact, part of the museum program being shaped by them.

The testimony of George W. Turnham, son of David Turn-

ham, written from Tampa, Fla., two years before his death in 1935, has been gathered to authenticate the old cabin's relation with Lincoln.

* * *

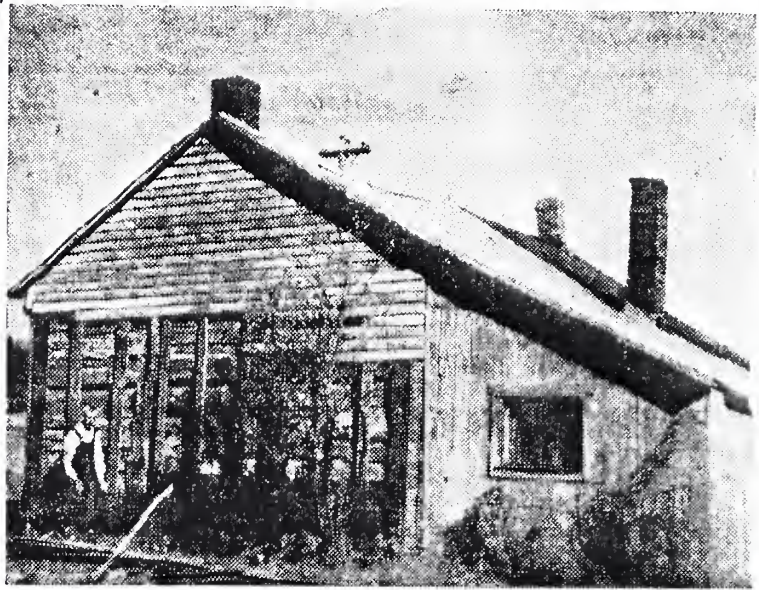
"My old home and birthplace is the home to which Lincoln came often to read the Statutes of Indiana, 1824, when father was constable, and his home before the Lincoln family moved to Illinois," Mr. Turnham wrote in a letter now owned by Orva V. Brown, president, the Lincoln Youth Library Association, Dale, Ind.

Around the old cabin in 1830 grazed the livestock of Thomas Lincoln, and in its low-eaved attic was stored the grain which David Turnham bought when the Lincolns left Indiana for a new home further west. The story runs that Abe invested the money in notions to peddle to the settlers along the route to Illinois.

"Abe made rails for father," Mr. Turnham recalled in 1933 in his notes for the Dale historical organization. "Older citizens of Dale will recall the times when a great many persons were eager to have walking canes made from rails split by Lincoln. They came to father and to others seeking such rails. Father said he told them that tho Abe made some of the rails in use on the farm, he could not point to any one rail and say that he was sure that Abe made that rail."

But the political demand for walking sticks made from Lincoln rails was so insistent during the national campaigns of the Eighties that the logs which once made the kitchen of the old Turnham cabin were removed, some of them stolen, others sold, many given away, after its owner moved to a newer residence in 1861 and in which David Turnham resided until his death, Aug. 23, 1884.

"Walking sticks shaped from logs hewn by the hand of Abraham Lincoln!" rang the barker's cry outside the convention hall at Chicago, June 9, 1880, that named James A. Garfield the Republican nominee. Every four years the craze increased, with Indiana's delegates proclaiming themselves "Lincoln Men" even to their walking sticks. The floors of the two conventions that named Indiana's Benjamin Harrison the Republican presi-



"Uncle George" Medcalf stands beside the David Turnham home, which was threatened with destruction by seekers of timbers with which to make "Lincoln relics."

dential nominee in 1888 and again in 1892 resounded with them.

"The craze took a lot of walnut rails and hickory timber out of Spencer County that were only seedlings and sprouts when 'Uncle Abe' lived here," remarked George Medcalf.

During the years that the Turnham cabin was occupied by tenant farmers, searchers for "Lincoln wood" tried to tear the old Turnham cabin apart. Few were able to sneak away with any of its timbers other than a clap-board from the roof. They found it a sturdy pioneer structure. Parts wouldn't pull loose easily.

In the Eighties after David Turnham's death, the cabin was removed from near Gentryville to Dale, Ind.

"The ground was covered with snow. Long timbers were placed under the building for runners. Ox-teams, more than could now be found in a large section of southern Indiana, were collected without difficulty," the son George Turnham remembered and wrote.

"By the combined power of the ox-teams, encouraged by a number of drivers each in charge of his own team, the cabin was moved (a distance of three miles) and located 100 yards northwest of the old Presbyterian Church in Dale. The house was in good condition and was occupied shortly by a Mr. Carlton," whom Dale citizens recall weatherboarded its log

sides. Attempts at minor improvement or additions have been made with each new occupant, but the original Turnham cabin is intact.

* * *

Recently the weather-boarding was removed that architects might study its type of structure, including the frontier fireplace. Its chimney once extended from the inside to the outside of the cabin rather than entirely outside.

"Over the more recently added studding that barred the once mud-chinked logs, the weatherboards were replaced without so much as a splinter being removed to gratify the relic collector," states Grant Johnson, secretary of the Lincoln Youth Library Association, and whose wife is a granddaughter of David Turnham.

Mr. Johnson recalls that barely a quarter of a century ago, and especially during the William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt administrations, it was the custom of timber buyers out of the Gentryville, Lincoln City, Dale areas to subsequently present to all national and state figures, walking sticks manufactured from trees grown in the Lincoln country.

"Lincoln gavels," he said, "still are requested by state chairmen of Republican organizations, thruout the Middle West with which to preside over state conventions. 'It helps them to make Lincoln speeches,' he explained.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor,
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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

December 11, 1939

THAT HALF-FACED CAMP

Some time between Thanksgiving and Christmas in the year 1816, Thomas Lincoln built his Indiana cabin home. Nearly every biographer of Lincoln has referred to this abode as a "half-faced camp". The most complete description of it is found in volume one, page 42, of Beveridge's *Abraham Lincoln*:

"Winter was at hand—it may be that the thin snow even then was beginning to fly. Thomas hastily built a shelter for his family. It was a 'half-faced camp,' such as hunters were wont to throw up as a protection against the weather, not unlike that sometimes found in sugar-camps at a later day. A pole was laid from branch to branch of two convenient trees; a few feet opposite these trees two stout saplings forked at the top, the bottom ends sharpened, were thrust into the ground; another pole, parallel with the first, laid in the crotches; and the frame was completed by still two other poles fixed upon the ends of those already placed. On three sides poles were piled upon one another; and a roof was contrived of poles, brush, and leaves.

"One side of this structure, which was only fourteen feet wide, was not enclosed; and before this open side, a fire, started by steel and tinder, was kept burning, upon which cooking was done. The fire also furnished such heat as the inhabitants of the half-faced camp could get, albeit sometimes accompanied by smoke, according to the caprices of the wind. At night, too, the blaze served to keep wild beasts from those who slept beneath that roof of brush. The loose, unhardened earth was the floor, on which leaves were thickly strewn; and over these was spread such bedding as had been brought, skins for the most part and possibly a blanket."

Beveridge's authority for the statement that the Lincolns lived in such a home is undoubtedly William Herndon, whose manuscript he used. The Herndon version as it appears on pages 20 and 21 in volume one of his three-volume work follows:

"The head of the household now set resolutely to work to build a shelter for his family.

"The structure, when completed, was fourteen feet square, and was built of small unhewn logs. In the language of the day, it was called a 'half-faced camp,' being enclosed on all sides but one. It had neither floor, door, nor windows. In this forbidding hovel these doughty emigrants braved the exposure of the varying seasons for an entire year. At the end of that time Thomas and Betsy Sparrow followed, bringing with them Dennis Hanks; and to them Thomas Lincoln surrendered the 'half-faced camp,' while he moved into a more pretentious structure—a cabin enclosed on all sides."

Herndon secured his information about this half-faced camp from Dennis Hanks who claimed to have lived in the structure, but, three years before Dennis Hanks was interviewed by Herndon, a writer by the name of Charles M. Thayer had told the story of the half-faced camp in his book, *The Pioneer Boy*, page 88. How much this book, which Dennis Hanks had read before he was interviewed by Herndon, influenced his reminiscence of the event fifty years before we cannot say. This was Thayer's version told in conversational form. The man, Neale, was presumably a resident of the Indiana community where the Lincolns settled.

(Neale) "Better build your home like mine, it's easy made and handy. There's nothing better than a half-faced camp."

(Thomas Lincoln) "I'd as quick have that as any; I want to get our heads covered pretty soon. In fact, that was the kind of cabin we had in Kentucky."

(Neale) "It won't take long to do that. We can cut nearly logs enough to-day; and then we can put it through in a hurry."

Of course every one knows Thomas Lincoln never lived in a half-faced camp in Kentucky. Neither did he live in a "forbidding hovel" for "an entire year" in Indiana as alleged by Herndon. In Abraham Lincoln's own testimony it can be shown that he never lived in a place of this kind at any time.

The complete refutation of this story is found in an autobiographical sketch which Abraham Lincoln prepared for John Locke Scripps in June 1860. Lincoln wrote out the sketch in the third person and it contains this reminiscence:

"From this place (Kentucky) he removed to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in the autumn of 1816, Abraham then being in his eighth year A few days before the completion of his eighth year, in the absence of his father, a flock of wild turkeys approached the new log cabin, and Abraham with a rifle-gun, standing inside, shot through a crack and killed one of them."

The incident of the turkey shooting occurred some few days previous to February 12, 1816. The Lincolns had been in the state at that time less than two months, and as Lincoln states precisely, they were living in "the new log cabin," not in a three-faced camp or a hovel but a log cabin.

William Dean Howell used Lincoln's sketch prepared for Scripps in his campaign biography. This biography was corrected by Lincoln who left standing without correction this statement by Howell found on page 21:

"The rude cabin of the settler was hastily erected he (Abraham) has never excelled an exploit of his eighth year, when he shot the leader of a flock of turkeys which ventured within sight of the cabin during his father's absence."

At the time Mrs. Hanaford was writing her Lincoln biography in 1865, she interviewed John Hanks who was exhibiting in Boston the cabin built by the Lincolns at Decatur, Illinois, in 1830. John Hanks who helped build the cabin told Mrs. Hanaford, "It was begun March 30, 1830; and four days were spent in building it."

There was no reason on earth why Thomas Lincoln should expose his family to the elements in a half-faced camp when a typical log cabin could be built in four days. A year before Thomas Lincoln moved to Indiana, other Lincoln relatives had preceded him and settled not far from where he built his cabin home, so there were plenty of settlers to help him cut the timber and erect his pioneer dwelling. Thomas Lincoln was, furthermore, an experienced woodsman and cabinetmaker and had built several cabins and had one contract for getting out timber for a large mill. The story of that half-faced camp is but another one of Herndon's gross exaggerations.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

December 19, 1939

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

I am very much interested in your notes on "That Half-Faced Camp." I have studied Indiana sites with some care, and believe that there is an opportunity for interesting and somewhat detailed work about Gentryville. I have three times gone over the locality with Elijah Grigsby, and while I have come to no definite conclusions, my guesses were in accord with your conclusions. On June 26, 1929, I made careful notes on what Elijah Grigsby said to me, and had him check my typewritten copy. I also talked with half a dozen people in regard to his reliability and the truth of what he said to me. I quote from the notes I made at that time:

"The Lincolns had three homes near Gentryville. The first half-faced camp was half a mile south from Pigeon Creek Church.... After first winter in the half-faced camp near which the Lincolns cleared six or eight acres of land, they moved to a site one quarter of a mile east and a little north of Pigeon Church. Here Thomas built a cabin of ten or twelve inch "capline". It wasn't so large as the third cabin at Lincoln City. I think it was about fourteen by sixteen feet square. A low opening served as a door. It had no windows. A mud chimney built with poles and sticks was on the west end. The Lincolns lived here about two years. Yes, I am sure my grandfather

*Probably, the
few days or weeks,
while building
the temporary log
cabin.*

December 19, 1939

said they lived there about two years. They cleared a small farm. I remember the house well. I went to it with my grandfather, and he told me about it. I think it burned down about '76 when I was ten years old. The woods burned and set fire to what was left of the half-faced camp and schoolhouse. They burned up about the same time. I saw them, and I can make affidavit that what I say is true. My father told me about the Lincolns living where I told you. The Lincoln cabin at Lincoln City. I used to go there, I don't know what became of it. I think it burned. No, I think they took it down. Uncle Aaron and Mr. Lincoln were great friends."

My guess would be that the Lincolns did build a half-faced camp, and I should like to sift the dirt around the site of it, which I have photographed and located with some care. After that they probably built what Elijah describes as a temporary shelter, going later to the permanent home at Lincoln City. I have voluminous notes on this subject and considerable correspondence but no time in prospect for the detailed study that is necessary to decide just what the Lincolns did on arrival in Indiana. A good map of the locality with markers of all the old sites is much to be desired*. Few people know the exact location of the old still, the corn-cracking mill and the sugar mill, and the homes of the Crawfords and the Grigsbys.

*rough
log cabin*

I am always thankful to you and the Lincoln National Life Foundation for your work, and look forward eagerly to every issue of Lincoln Life.

Lore

With good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



John B. MacHarg

JBM:PL

* Or better, a reconstruction of the New Salem type. Indiana might well do it.

December 22, 1939

Mr. John B. MacHarg
Eastman Kodak Company
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. MacHarg:

Your very interesting letter has been received and the historical notations observed.

It is very difficult indeed to get back into the basic facts about the early Lincolns' home in Southern Indiana. I am convinced myself that there was no Half-Faced Camp. There may have been 2 different cabins but I rather anticipate they were built on the same quarter section of land, although I do not know anything but tradition which would establish this theory. Abraham Lincoln himself never mentioned but one home and that was the newly built log cabin which was erected within 2 months after the family arrived.

No where does Lincoln mention the building of a second log cabin, although at the time the family removed to Illinois there is some indication that they had secured lumber for a new home. I wish we knew more about the activities in Southern Indiana.

Thanking you again for your interesting letter and wishing you the Greetings of the Season, I am

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:EB

Pebbled Path In Indiana Leads Back To Lincoln

By Fletcher Wilson

SUN-TIMES Staff Correspondent

LINCOLN CITY, Ind.—A pebbled walk behind a wide esplanade leads to the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother.

The grave is in a state memorial park near Lincoln City, Ind., and 35 miles northeast of Evansville.

The visitor from Illinois had gone there from the sites of Lincoln's birth and early childhood near Hodgenville, Ky. He had followed the Lincoln family's trek, but kept to main highways instead of attempting

Second of a Series

ing trails now winding through Fort Knox and used only by Boy Scouts.

The trail had led across the Ohio River, by ferry, from Hawesville, Ky., and into the Pigeon River country. Her Lincoln spent the formative years of his life—and lost his mother.

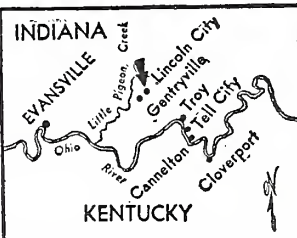
SCOURGE OF PIONEERS

Nancy Hanks Lincoln, a pleasant brown-haired woman, died Oct. 5, 1818, at the age of 35 of the "milk sick." This was two years after she had migrated from Kentucky with her husband, Tom; daughter, Sarah, and son, Abraham. Cousins, in-laws and friends had followed to form a colony.

The "milk sick," or fever, was a scourge of pioneer times. It may have been caused by cattle feeding on a poisonous variety of snakeroot. Prevalence of the disease probably contributed to Thomas Lincoln's decision in 1830 to move on into Illinois.

Before then, in 1820, Tom had gone back to Kentucky for a new wife, Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children of her own.

The new Mrs. Lincoln, bringing her large store of household possessions, is described as being surprised



Map locates region where Lincoln spent early years of his life.

to find that they must fit into the single room of a 15-by-30-foot log cabin. Tom, during the courtship, had set himself out as a well-to-do farmer.

FIREPLACE RESTORED

The fireplace and foundation of the cabin have been excavated and restored. They are half a mile along the pebbled path from the Nancy Hanks grave.

The original hearthstones have been rebuilt into a fireplace. The foundation logs have been reproduced in bronze cast in Germany and placed to form the outline of a cabin.

Adjoining the memorial is Lincoln State Park, in which may be found a new church on the site of the Little Pigeon Creek Baptist Church, where the boy Lincoln heard sermons he repeated word for word to playmates, using any stump as a pulpit.

In back of the church is a cemetery, still in use, where Abe's sister, Mrs. Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, is buried.

Beside the highway in the Nancy Hanks burial area is a memorial building maintained by the state. The caretaker, J. R. Kennedy, 73,

will relieve his loneliness on a winter day by detailing his tie with the Lincoln tradition.

LIKED TO READ

When he was 13, Kennedy relates, he did farm chores for Allen Gentry, who as a youth accompanied Lincoln on a flatboat trip down the Mississippi River to New Orleans.

He was paid a nickel for each job. One day he demanded a dime, he said, and was told he never would be hired by Gentry again. He never was.

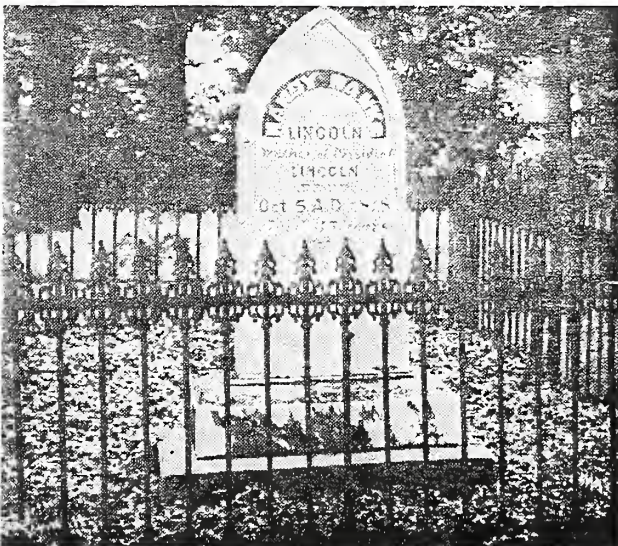
Kennedy remembers also that another Gentry, Robert, was bitter toward Lincoln and would say constantly: "Lincoln never did a thing, but lay around in the shade with a book."

These were the sons of James Gentry, founder of Gentryville, where Lincoln frequently loitered to learn the ways of city life. The town still is there, three general stores and a postoffice.

The grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, inclosed in an iron fence, is a spectral place in winter.

The visitor returned from the

Continued on Page 18



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the President, lies in a state park near Lincoln City, Ind.

Pebbled Path In Indiana Leads Back To Lincoln

Continued from Page 16

cabin site at dusk to step crunchingly onto a heavy padding of sleet-stiffened oak leaves. He took another pebbled path that was marked at intervals with stones taken from places where Lincoln had lived or made history.

The pilgrim from Illinois remembered that he had a stone of his own in his overcoat pocket, one with a bit of fossil in it, that had come from beside Knob Creek in Kentucky, where Lincoln had drawn water and fished as a boy.

He drew the stone out as he sat on a stump just outside the old graveyard, and thought back to incidents about Lincoln's youth. . . . As he mused, a wiry figure, more than 6 feet tall—a man of 21 or thereabouts—appeared out of the winter dusk.

He wore blue jeans, too tight for the muscular thighs and barely long enough to tuck into buckskin boots; a cotton shirt; a deerskin jacket, pinching at the shoulders, the sleeves dangling high at the wrists; a faded cloth hat.

"Hullo," this Hoosier Ichabod Crane said. "You have kin here, too?"

"No," he was told.

GOING ON JOURNEY

He chatted on to ask if the Illinoisan had read Weem's "Life of Washington." The visitor replied no, that his education was deficient in that respect.

The lanky youth said he would be happy to lend his copy—one earned by pulling cornstalks after the book became soaked in a rainstorm and unreturnable to its owner—but he was starting on a journey to Illinois and wanted it with him.

"Sometimes," he said, "I go as much as 50 miles to borrow a book."

He asked if there might be books in Illinois that he hadn't read. "Yes, there must be, they are being written there all the time," the visitor said.

"I wouldn't rightly know," the Hoosier apologized. "I never got to school much. Only 'bout a year altogether. I wrote a bit of poetry myself, though."

The visitor inquired if he intended to follow a literary career.

"No," the youth said. "I don't seem to be good for much 'cept makin' fence and plowin' field or maybe runnin' a boat on the river. I tried to get my folks to let me go off and learn to be a river pilot, but I wasn't yet of age then. Now I'm about to be my own boss, I don't know."

COULD IT BE?

"I'm kind of like a hog raised without corn. Old enough to sell, but not fat enough to tempt a buyer."

That turn of speech struck recol-

lection. The visitor jumped up to settle a question about which scholars disagree:

"Could Nancy Hanks Lincoln, your mother, read or write?"

In his haste, the man from Illinois knocked the stone he was holding into a niche in the stump and was a little time recovering it. When he had, there was no one about. No one at all.

The traveler wondered. There had been, he recalled, a troupe of television artists in the vicinity doing a life of Lincoln. And Lincoln pageants were ever plentiful. Had some actor been getting himself into the mood for a Rail Splitter role? Probably.

Nevertheless, he slipped the stone gingerly into his pocket.

There had been no crunching of ice-coated leaves to signal the arrival or departure of the oddly-clothed youth.

THURSDAY: Lincoln as a lawyer in Illinois.



Lincoln's Youth Indiana Years Seven to Twenty-one 1816-1830

by Louis A. Warren

APPLETON · CENTURY · CROFTS, INC.
New York

1959

7 Lincoln's Youth, Indiana Years · 1816

had ordered the road overseers "to open a road from Troy [on the Ohio River] to the Hurricane, 12 feet wide, in such manner that carriages can conveniently pass and that they have the same completed by next November court."¹⁴

The road followed a very early trail to Polk Patch in Warrick County, where a blockhouse was built a few years before, and it passed within four miles of the Lincoln homesite. How much had been done on this road to meet the specifications of the court by the time the Lincolns came is not known. Undoubtedly they would have encountered their greatest difficulties when they had to leave it and pick up a township trail. One of Lincoln's new neighbors related that Thomas Lincoln "came in a horse wagon, cut his way to his farm with an ax felling the trees as he went."¹⁵ And this seems to coincide with family tradition. This toilsome journey through the almost impenetrably entangled grapevines made a deep impression on the little seven-year-old boy, who in early years "never passed through a harder experience than he did in going from Thompson's Ferry" to their homesite.¹⁶ One of the early settlers of Indiana observed that the lowlands were so thick with underbrush that "one could scarcely get through." The pioneers called the thickets "roughs."

It is interesting to speculate on what factors influenced Thomas Lincoln in selecting his land. A salt lick near by which attracted wild game in abundance would have been a contributing feature.¹⁷ The field notes of David Sanford, deputy surveyor, made in March, 1805, reveal the condition of the land as he moved along the southern boundary of what later became Carter Township. Starting on the east with Section 31 he observed that the land was level barrens, open and wet with some oak and hickory. Section 32, where the Lincoln land was located, he described as "land level, oak and hickory, medium growth is hazel and other brush very thick. The timber on this mile is chiefly destroyed by fire." Section 33 was described as mostly level, chiefly creek bottom, over-

flowed by high water. The three following sections in the township consisted of broken or uneven land mostly poor, of second- or third-rate quality.¹⁸ Certainly the discovery of "a living spring of water" was important in determining where the cabin would be located. "Springs furnishing water suitable for drinking purposes existed on the west side of Lincoln's eighty acres. . . . Such water was an asset to any tract of land. . . . On the south line of Lincoln's eighty there was a brook ten links wide running north-west."¹⁹ The immediate site of the cabin was a knoll which, because of the elevation, would be dry and healthy. Furthermore, their cabin would face the township trace over which they had hewn their way.

Just how the family had protected themselves from the weather during their stops along the way is not known. Naturally their first thoughts upon arrival would be a permanent shelter. The crude half-face camp which Thomas had thrown together when he had selected his land would have provided some security. Or perhaps the mother and the children found a temporary lodging in a neighbor's house, while their own cabin was being put up.²⁰

The harvest season was now past and the settlers were free to help in the home-building project. Thomas Lincoln was experienced in cabin building, having assisted in erecting many in Kentucky, including two or three of his own, and had once contracted for supplying the timber for a mill.²¹ The construction of a cabin was not a time-consuming enterprise. One family reaching southern Indiana about the same time as the Lincolns reported: "Arrived on Tuesday, cut logs for the cabin on Wednesday, raised the cabin on Thursday, clapboards from an old sugar camp put on Friday and on Saturday made the crude furniture to go to housekeeping."²²

The routine in building a cabin was as follows: the trees to be felled were carefully selected to provide logs a foot in diameter and twenty feet long. Sixteen of these logs were needed, eight for the front and eight for the back wall. Sixteen

logs, eighteen feet long were cut for the two end walls, and in addition, a few shorter ones of proper length were cut to fill the gables. This would mean that approximately forty logs, one foot in diameter, would have to be prepared. They would then be rolled to the cabin site or pulled there by oxen or horses. Four large stones would be laid at the corners for the foundation, and, with an axeman at each corner to notch the logs properly for a close fit as they were put in place, construction would get under way.

Smaller logs for the loft floor would be laid, then others reaching from gable to gable, to serve as joists for the roof, and finally the ridge pole would be set in position. Clapboards, a half-inch thick, would be set in their proper courses on these joists to make the roof waterproof, and over the clapboards poles would be laid to keep them in place. After this the openings for the door, window, and fireplace would be cut out and a stick chimney would be constructed on the outside of the cabin to connect with the place that had been cut for it. The construction of such a home with the help of neighbors was not a difficult task. It should not have taken more than four days to have the structure ready for occupancy.

Now the chinking on the outside could begin, and this is where the children could be of real help. Abraham could split thin slabs of wood and drive them between the logs, up as high as he could reach, where there were open places, wedging them in one by one. Sarah could then daub moistened clay between the logs where the wedges had not completely filled the cracks. It must have been a fascinating experience for a boy and girl of their ages to assist in building the home in which they were to live. In a very special sense they could refer to the cabin as "our home." It could be said, quite literally, that the Lincoln family had cut their house out of the wilderness.

When the cabin had been made fairly wind and moisture proof on the outside, the process of chinking and daubing

would be continued on the inside, but with a little more care, so as to give the cabin interior walls a more even surface. Later a floor made of puncheons could be put down, but for the time being the hard clay was allowed to serve. In one of the corners there was an opening into the loft and pegs were driven into the logs to serve as a ladder.²³

Once the cabin itself had been completed, Thomas turned his attention to building a pole bedstead in one of the corners opposite the fireplace. At the proper height from the floor holes were made between the logs to receive the side poles, and a corner post set out on the floor to which these poles could be attached. Slats were then laid across the side poles to hold the mattress made of corn husks or leaves. On top of this Nancy laid the feather bed brought from Kentucky. The next piece of furniture was a table. This Thomas handily constructed, as well as chairs, benches, or stools, or possibly all three. A corner cupboard, which took more time to make, rounded out the furnishings.

The Lincolns had brought with them a spinning wheel, a skillet or spider, a Dutch oven, a large kettle, and small pans. A few wooden bowls, pewter dishes, knives and forks, and a few simple utensils completed their cooking and dining equipment. Besides the light from the fireplace, they may have had candles or a simple lamp made by lighting a wick which was placed in a cup of bear's grease.

There is a tendency to visualize the pioneer cabins in Kentucky and Indiana as they appear in photographs taken many years after they had been deserted and used for purposes other than dwellings. Usually they present a dilapidated condition and repulsive surroundings. As an experienced builder Thomas erected a house that was adequate for the family's needs and similar to the other cabin homes of that era. It was new and clean, with the aroma of newly cut timber both within and without the walls. We hope that they were able to get the new home ready to occupy by December 16,

LINCOLN BOYHOOD



National Memorial • Indiana

LINCOLN BOYHOOD



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ON THIS INDIANA FARM ABRAHAM LINCOLN GREW FROM YOUTH INTO MANHOOD



In the fall of 1816 a compact, dark-haired frontiersman toiled along a narrow trace leading through the dense forest of southern Indiana. Sixteen miles in from the Ohio, he came upon a scattering of dwellings lying just south of Little Pigeon Creek, in a region of towering hardwoods, plentiful game, and good water. Choosing a quarter-section (160 acres) of Government-surveyed land for a homestead, he marked the corners with brush piles and notched the largest trees. Then he set out on the long trek back to his farm in Kentucky to settle his affairs and bring his family to their new wilderness home.

For Thomas Lincoln—once a wandering laborer but now a carpenter and backwoods farmer—Indiana offered a fresh start. Here a man might own good soil, free of title disputes and the taint of slavery. Three times previously he had lost land in Kentucky because of title flaws, and others had claimed the fruits of his labor. Moreover, settlers were crowding in and slavery and the slave controversy were on the increase in his neighborhood. So he turned his eyes across the Ohio, to vast, new lands which held the promise of a better life.

Thomas Lincoln had worked hard at homesteading since he had married young Nancy Hanks in a small Kentucky crossroads named Beech Fork in 1806. They made their first home in Elizabethtown, a restless frontier village where Thomas worked as a carpenter and owned property. Sarah, their first child, was born here in 1807. Then a year and a half later the Lincolns moved south to settle on a newly purchased farm along the South Fork of Nolich Creek, near Hodgen's mill.

Father, mother, and daughter reached the farm in mid-winter, shortly before the second child was due. Working quickly on a hill above a clear spring, Thomas built a crude, one-room log cabin with a dirt floor, a stick-and-clay chimney, and a single window. Here on a Sunday morning, February 12, 1809, in primitive and unpromising circumstances, a son was born to Nancy and Thomas Lincoln. They named him Abraham after his grandfather.

The Lincolns lived at this farm for only some 2 years. It was barren, unyielding ground, and when a dispute arose over title to the land, Thomas again moved his family, this time to a new farm of 230 acres along the bottom lands of Knob Creek.

Here was far more inviting country. The Lincoln place lay just within the hill region, and farm clearings with their little cabins dotted the fertile valleys. Corn grew high, and the forest gave abundantly.

Within a year or two, Nancy gave birth to another son, Thomas, who lived only long enough to receive his father's name. This was the last child born to the couple, and little Abraham retained only the dimmest recollection of the infant. But other impressions of his life here remained vivid. He remembered an old stone fort and a great poplar that stood along the family route to the gristmill. He remembered his boyhood companions and carrying water to the cabin and a vast rain that washed away pumpkin seeds that he had so carefully planted the day before. Once he caught a fish and gave

it to a passing soldier; another time he fell into the creek and was barely pulled out in time. And he never forgot the names of his first teachers—Zachariah Riney, a Catholic, and Caleb Hazel, an avowed opponent of slavery—whose A.B.C. schools he attended for a few months.

For 5 years Thomas Lincoln farmed his land on Knob Creek, paying his bills, performing his public duties, and supporting his family as well as other men of his station in life. The increase of slavery bothered him. Yet it was not slavery that drove him from Kentucky, but land titles. In 1816 the heirs of an earlier landowner brought an ejectment suit against him and nine of his neighbors, claiming prior rights to the land. That fall, while the suit was still pending in court, he made up his mind to move to Indiana where he could hold his land without fear. When Thomas returned from his scouting trip, he gathered all their possessions and the family started for the river crossing. It was December and Abraham was 7. Abraham later remembered the trip to the farm site as one of the hardest experiences of his life. After crossing the Ohio at Thompson's ferry and following an old wagon road for 12 miles, they had to hack out the last distance through dense underbrush. It was now early winter. With the help of neighbors Thomas cleared a spot on high ground and put up a log cabin, finishing it within several weeks. Then came an incident that left a deep mark on the young boy. A few days before Abraham's eighth birthday, a flock of wild turkeys approached the cabin. Standing inside, he fired his father's rifle through a crack and dropped one. "He has never since," he wrote many years later, "pulled a trigger on any larger game."

The family lived mostly on game and bartered corn and pork that first winter, until Thomas could clear enough ground for his first crop. Abraham was large for his age, and his father put an ax into his hands at once. Year by year they hacked away at the forest, eventually bringing under cultivation some 40 acres of corn, wheat, and oats. They also kept sheep, hogs, and a few cattle.

Almost a year passed before Thomas entered the title to his farm. In October 1817 with one crop in, he rode 60 miles to the land office in Vincennes and deposited \$16 on two tracts of 80 acres each. Two months later he paid \$64 more, bringing the amount to one-fourth of the total price of \$320. (Not until 1827 would he completely pay for his land. He did it then by relinquishing the east 80 acres as payment for the west 80, a common practice of the day. He also owned 20 acres that adjoined the west 80.)

That fall some of Nancy's kinkfolds joined the Lincolns. Driven out of Kentucky by a similar ejectment suit, Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow—her uncle and aunt—with their 18-year-old nephew Dennis Hanks, followed the Lincolns into Indiana and moved into a rough shelter on the farm until they could find land and settle. Their coming cheered Nancy and gave young Abe a companion and Thomas another workhand.

Within a year both Sparrows lay dead, victims of the dread "milk sickness" that swept through southwestern Indiana in the late summer of 1818. No doctors lived nearby, and there were no remedies in any case. Thomas fashioned two coffins and laid them

away on a wooded knoll a quarter of a mile south of the cabin. A few days later Nancy caught the disease and died on October 5, 1818, after a week of fever. Once more Thomas hammered together a coffin, and once more he trudged through the woods to the knoll, where without ceremony he buried his wife alongside the Sparrows. Abraham was only 9 and Sarah only 11. "She knew she was going to die," related Dennis Hanks years later, "and called up the children to her dying side and told them to be good & kind to their father—to one another and to the world. . . ."

Nancy Hanks Lincoln lived and died according to the ways of the frontier, known only to her family and a few neighbors. The details of her ancestry, her appearance, the kind of wife and mother she was—these and other facts still remain obscure. Those who knew her spoke long afterwords of her good sense and affectionate and deeply religious nature. There is no reason to doubt these judgments, nor that with her death the family fortunes slipped to their lowest ebb.

Young Sarah now took over the household chores, while Thomas and the boys hunted and tended to the farming. As the months stretched on, the four sank into a rough, haphazard existence. When Thomas could no longer stand the loneliness, he journeyed back to Kentucky for another wife, and found her in Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children.

On December 2, 1819, they were married in Elizabethtown. After loading a four-horse wagon with her goods—pots, pans, blankets, a feather bed, a bureau, and books, which seemed like plenty compared to their lot in Indiana—he drove them back to the farm on Little Pigeon Creek.

Thomas had chosen well. The cheerful and orderly Sarah proved to be a kind stepmother, raising Abraham and Sarah as her own. Under her guidance the two families merged easily, and Thomas went to work with new energy, repairing the crowded cabin and clearing more land for crops.

Abraham was 11 now, a dark-complexioned, rawboned farm boy growing rapidly. From his companions we have a picture of a healthy, good-humored, obliging youth with a love of talking and of listening to talk. He had his share of mischief, but he seems to have absorbed the best side of the frontier while rejecting the worst. He became expert with the ax and worked alongside his father in the fields and the carpentry shop. Often his father sent him to the mill to grind the family grist. (Two years earlier, at Noah Gordon's horse mill a mile south of the Lincoln cabin, he was kicked in the head and knocked senseless, "apparently killed for a time" in his words.) Occasionally he was hired out to work for others. Yet he never cared for manual labor.

What he did care for was words and ideas and books. In Indiana, as in Kentucky, his schooling came "by littles." During the winter of 1819-20 he attended Andrew Crawford's subscription school held in an unheated log cabin a mile south of the Lincoln cabin. Stern but capable, Crawford taught not only the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic but also etiquette, or "manners" as they called it. Two years later James Swaney opened a school on a farm 4 miles distant, but Abraham went for only a few weeks and got little out of it.



The traditional birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.



Poisonous snake, which came the dead "milk sickness."



Little Pigeon Baptist Church, which the Lincolns attended in Indiana.



A book which greatly moved young Abraham.

Abraham grew up in Indiana. A lanky, good-humored youth, liked by all, he helped his father with the farming, hacked away at the forest with his ax, attended the occasional schools in the community, and read incessantly. Uninterested in labor, he passed long hours in talk. At 16 he worked for a few months on a farm along the Ohio. Three years later he rode a flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans and first glimpsed a wider world.



A page from A's sum New Salem as Lincoln knew it. A map made in 1866.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS



The Lincoln family Bible.

Thomas Lincoln

"It is great folly to attempt to make anything out of me or my early life," wrote the candidate to a supporter. "It can all be condensed into a single sentence; and that sentence you will find in Gray's *Elroy*: 'The short and simple annals of the poor.' That's my life and that's all you or anyone else can make out of it."

Abraham Lincoln, elected 16th President of the United States soon after penning these lines, aptly summed up his humble beginnings. He was born on February 12, 1809, in a log cabin on the Kentucky frontier. His parents—Thomas Lincoln, a carpenter and backwoods farmer, and Nancy Hanks, a shadowy figure of obscure lineage—were hardworking and religious but without schooling. When Abe was 2, his father took his family to another, more fertile farm 10 miles north. This was the Knob Creek place, and the boy long remembered his years here. He swam in the creek with companions, attended A.B.C. schools with his sister Sarah for a few months, and accompanied his father on chores.

In Abe's 7th year, title troubles again drove his father off his farm. Seeking secure land and—his son said later—free soil, Thomas carried his family into the Indiana wilderness and settled near Little Pigeon Creek. Two years later, in 1818, Abe's mother died, a victim of the terrible "milk sickness," and the family sank into a rough existence from which it did not emerge until Thomas remarried.

His new wife was Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children. Cheerful and energetic, she brought a new tone to the Lincoln cabin and raised the boy and his sister as her own.



Sarah Bush Johnston



An Ohio River steamboat, The General Fair, in 1818.



Lincoln's surveying equipment.

In 1830 the Lincolns moved once more. Lured by reports of rich black soil, they piled all their goods into wagons and set out for Illinois. Soon they reached a spot on the banks of Sangamon River, a few miles from Decatur. Abraham was now 21, free to come and go as he chose, but he stayed with his family for a year, breaking ground, splitting rails, and planting corn. After another trip down the Mississippi, he drifted into New Salem, a thriving village.

For a while he clerked in Offutt's store. When it failed, he grasped at a new opportunity. Encouraged by his friends he ran for the State legislature, advocating a variety of public improvements. Though he lost the election, he carried his own neighborhood by 277 votes to 7, a source of great pride for many years after.

EARLY POLITICAL CAREER



The Statehouse at Springfield.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



1809-1865

Springfield, the new State capital. Licensed an attorney the year before, he formed a partnership with the able John T. Stuart and soon dipped into local politics. After marrying Mary Todd, a Kentucky belle, in 1842, he settled down in earnest to the law. From 1847-49 Lincoln served in Congress. He worked hard in office, but his opposition to the Mexican War proved notably unpopular back home, and he was passed over for renomination. Sadly he returned to Springfield, and resumed his law practice. Honest, shrewd, and effective before juries, he soon rose to the first rank of the Illinois bar. Over the next 5 years Lincoln devoted much time to studying the American past and the looming issue of slavery.



Lincoln's most celebrated law case: the defense of young "Dan" Armstrong in 1838.



A handbill for a political meeting held during the Lincoln-Douglas debates.



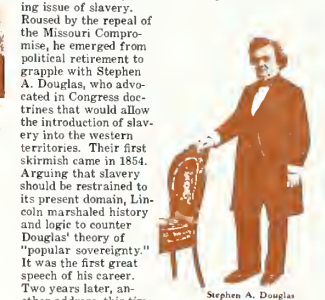
The home in Springfield.

Early in 1860 Lincoln journeyed east to lecture in New York City. He called for the exclusion of slavery from the territories, deplored efforts to destroy the Union, and urged friendship toward the South. The speech was a triumph, and the number of his supporters grew. When his rivals proved weak in the national convention, Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency on the third ballot.



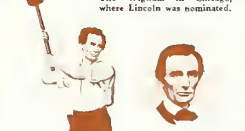
A political rally at the Lincoln home in August 1860.

From his doorstep in Springfield Lincoln ran a quiet campaign, receiving delegations and political leaders while avoiding speeches and stumping. In November 1860 the Nation voted. Lincoln won a large electoral majority (180 votes to 129 for his three opponents), but he polled less than half of the popular vote. The South voted almost solidly against him.



Stephen A. Douglas

las for his Senate seat. For 3 months they ranged Illinois debating the issue of freedom in the territories. Lincoln exposed the inconsistencies in Douglas' arguments, while disavowing abolitionism himself. Douglas won the election, but the contest lifted the tall prairie lawyer once more into national prominence. In 1858 Lincoln challenged Douglas to a State Convention of the new Republican party, again brought him wide attention. He was now enough of a national figure to be seriously considered for the Republican vice-presidential nomination. In 1858 Lincoln challenged Douglas to a State Convention of the new Republican party, again brought him wide attention. He was now enough of a national figure to be seriously considered for the Republican vice-presidential nomination. In 1858 Lincoln challenged Douglas to a State Convention of the new Republican party, again brought him wide attention. He was now enough of a national figure to be seriously considered for the Republican vice-presidential nomination.



The Wigwag in Chicago, where Lincoln was nominated.



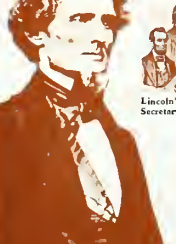
Two views of Lincoln the candidate.

"The fiery trials through which we pass will light us down, to honor or dishonor, to the last generation." SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

THE WAR YEARS



The first inaugural ceremony at the newly-inaugurated Capitol dome.



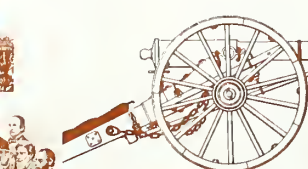
Lincoln's Cabinet. At right is Secretary of War Edwin Stanton.



The bombardment of Fort Sumter, April 12-14, 1861.



Lincoln confers with McClellan, just after the battle of Antietam.



An 1864 political cartoon, pointing toward the task of reunion.



Gettysburg, 1863: "The world can never forget what they did here."



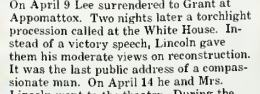
The Emancipation, as the plain people saw it.

bright spot. But at Fredericksburg in late 1862 and at Chancellorsville in the spring of 1863 the North again suffered large-scale and critical defeats. This was Lincoln's darkest hour. After Antietam, he had issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring free all slaves in rebel territory, but words could not substitute for victories. Now Lee was marching northward again. In July the armies clashed at Gettysburg, and Lee retreated with bloody losses. As the North rejoiced, more good news came from the West. Stubby, quiet-spoken Ulysses S. Grant captured the strategic

citadel of Vicksburg, splitting the Confederacy. When he broke the siege of Chattanooga 2 months later, a grateful Lincoln brought him east to command all the Union armies. In May 1864, while another Union force set out across Georgia, Grant advanced southward, bent on destroying Lee's army. Lee fought desperately in the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania. Casualties mounted, and quick victory seemed as far away as ever.

"The whole physiognomy is as coarse as one in you would meet anywhere in the length and breadth of the States; but when, it is redeemed, illumined, softened, and brightened by a kindly though serious look out of his eyes, and an expression of homely simplicity, that seems weighted with rich results of village experience. A great deal of native sense; no bookish cultivation, no refinement; honest at heart, and thoroughly so, and yet, in some sort, shy—at least, endowed with a sort of tact and wisdom that are akin to craft, and would impel him. I think, to take an antagonist in flank, rather than to make a ball-run at him right in front." —Nathaniel Hawthorne

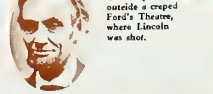
The summer of 1864 was one of Lincoln's most difficult. Peace negotiations were begun, but fell through. There was discord in the Cabinet, and in August Lincoln broke with the Radicals in Congress. He soon came to believe that he had no chance of winning reelection. Yet the tide was slowly turning. Two days after the Democrats nominated McClellan for the Presidency, Atlanta fell to W. T. Sherman and Northern morale soared. Lincoln won the November election easily, carrying 22 of the 25 participating States. The war was fast drawing to a close as Lincoln began his second term. Lee was bottled up at Petersburg; Sherman's swath of destruction had badly crippled the South; slavery was dead. Lincoln's concern now was the reconciliation of the two sections. In his inaugural address he described the war as a visitation from God and—mellowed and deepened by the ordeal he pleaded for peace without malice. On April 9 Lee agreed to Grant at Appomattox. Two nights later a torchlight procession called at the White House. Instead of a victory speech, Lincoln gave them his moderate views on reconstruction. It was the last public address of a compassionate man. On April 14 he and Mrs. Lincoln went to the theater. During the third act an assassin slipped into the Lincoln's box, shot the President in the head, and fled into the darkness. Soldiers carried the slumped figure across the street to a boardinghouse and laid him across a bed. Surgeons worked over Lincoln all night, but he never regained consciousness. The next morning death came to the man whom power had emboldened.



The assassin's weapon.



Guards patrol outside a cramped Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was shot.



A people's tribute.

Abe's boyhood farm could be strip mined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abraham Lincoln's boyhood farm in southern Indiana is among a total of 1.7 million acres in national parks from Pennsylvania to Alaska that could be opened to strip mining under rule changes being considered by the Interior Department, a government memo contends.

The National Park Service sent the memo earlier in the month urging the Office of Surface Mining to drop a revision that park officials estimated could lead to opening 26 parks to coal strip mining.

Both agencies are in the Interior Department, where officials contend that the rule change is only one of several options being considered and no decision has been made yet.

However, environmentalists attacked the proposal last week.

"We are troubled that the agency would even consider an option that would permit development in the national parks given the repeated pledges by (Interior Secretary James) Watt that national parks will be off limits to development," said Norman Dean, attorney for the National Wildlife Federation.

The change is among a package of proposed revisions the Office of Surface Mining is considering to rules implementing the 1977 Surface Mining Control Act.

That law requires strip-mined land to be returned to its original contours. It also put national parks, forests and wildlife refuges off limits to strip mining. However, Congress granted an exception to that ban for persons holding rights to such mining before the 1977 law was passed.

The furor is over how to define a "valid existing right" as referred to in the law.

The park service is urging the surface mining office to adopt a definition that would require persons to have obtained all the permits necessary for mining at the time the law was passed.

Interior Department officials said the final decision on the mining proposal will not be made until mid-November.

The 26 park units include nine in Alaska; Allegheny Portage, Pa.; Big South Fork, Ky. and Tenn.; Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef, Utah; Chaco Culture, N.M.; Cumberland Gap, Ky., Tenn. and Va.; Dinosaur, Colo. and Utah; Fort Necessity, Pa.; Fort Union Trading Post, N.D. and Mont.; Friendship Hills, Pa.; Glen Canyon, Ariz. and Utah; Johnstown Flood, Pa.; Knife River Indian Village, N.D.; Lincoln Boyhood, Ind.; New River Gorge, W.Va.; Obed Wild and Scenic River, Tenn.; and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, N.D.

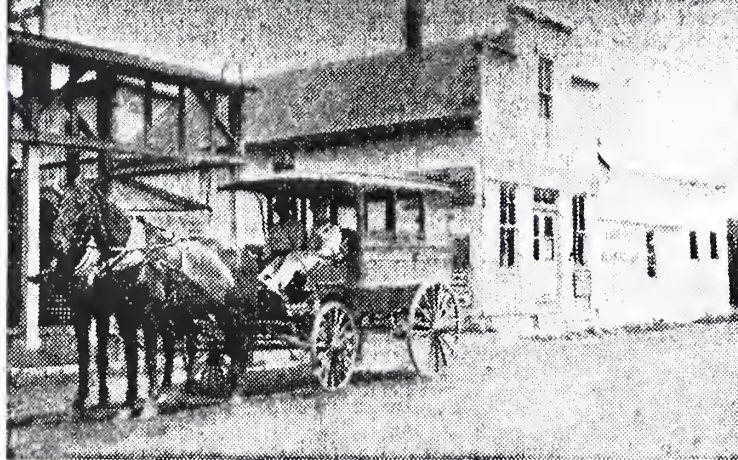
WHERE LINCOLN LIVED



Dedicated to the Memory of An Immortal

Through the courtesy of a member of the Agency Department of the Home Office this striking picture was brought back to us after a visit at the old Lincoln homestead where the Emancipator spent the formative years of his life in southern Indiana from 1818 to 1830.

The inscription reads "Spencer County Memorial to Abraham Lincoln who lived on this spot from 1818 to 1830." It was here that the Lincoln family moved from his birthplace in Harden County, Kentucky, and this place is also sacred as the resting place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother. Through the efforts of patriotic citizens there will be in course of erection very shortly a majestic memorial dedicated to these things so sacred to the American people in Lincoln park near by. *Emancipator*



This two-horse hack operated between the Lincoln City station and Dale.

Lincoln City's Once Gay Depot Soon Will Store Grain

**Building Was Excursion Center Starting
In 1900 for Sunday-School Classes**

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Lincoln City, Ind., Feb. 3.—Ninety per cent of the Sunday-school classes of Southern Indiana, beginning about 1900, once made the Lincoln City railroad station the most important excursion depot in this part of the State. It was a junction point for fourteen passenger trains a day, and on Lincoln's Birthday, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July it was crowded by thousands. Lincoln City was just becoming known for its sacred shrine—the grave of President Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and the Indiana farm site of the Lincoln family.

Two hotels, a half dozen stores, restaurants and novelty shops with Lincoln souvenirs flourished from railroad trade. The depot was a constant scene of flustered throngs and Lincoln City's center.

All Vanished But Depot.

Today, all have vanished but the depot. This week the station building was being torn apart by Joseph Webe, to be made into a storage place for farmers' grain. Not a passenger train has pulled through Lincoln City for almost a year. Junction lines have even abandoned freight service. Tracks have been torn up from the switch yards, where three to six panting engines were always to be seen. A little more than a half century covers the whole story, when veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic poured into Lincoln City from all over Indiana for their annual State reunions.

Now thousands of automobiles (on special days) travel State Highways 62, 45 and 162 and enter a flagshaft court a mile from the abandoned station.

The depot building here is one of seven small buildings being either torn down or remodeled for storage use by the Southern Railway, Huntingburg to Evansville. Like the horse-drawn hacks that once operated from the depots in all the towns along the Southern, now the stations are vanishing.



Bands play no more at the Lincoln City station.



Along the Heritage Trail

In a sense, each of the places where Abraham Lincoln lived was a part of the American frontier—from the one-room log houses his father built in Kentucky, Indiana and southeastern Illinois, to a room in a tavern in New Salem, to the new state capitol of Springfield, and eventually to what was still considered the “new federal city” of Washington.

He was the quintessential new American, the self-made man, the autodidact whose quick native intelligence and ambition for a better life allowed him to move ahead—in just sixteen years—from his father’s log house in the Indiana wilderness to a handsome frame house in Springfield, the town he helped make into the state capitol. His changing lifestyle is reflected in the changing architecture seen as we travel the Lincoln Heritage Trail.

Along the way are the rough New Salem structures, the brick or frame buildings that were the courthouses of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and the stagecoach stops. Each in its own way tells the story of quickly evolving frontier settlement, of civilization obdurately moving westward; of homes first furnished with the few cherished possessions carried west by new settlers who then made many of the other household furnishings they needed. It is the story, too, of the “second” homes furnished finally and finely with new pieces brought via the Great Lakes from Boston and New York, via inland waterways from Pennsylvania or “up river” from New Orleans.

the Heritage Trail Antiques Show

*America's Newest Complete Show
of Authentic Early Antiques*

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
September 24, 25, 26

Governor and Mrs. James R. Thompson,
honorary co-chairmen

***Convention Center
Springfield***

*in cooperation with the
Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation, Inc.*

Admission, 4.00 Tearoom 12 noon to 9:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday; noon to 6:00 p.m., Sunday
Convention Center, Eighth & Adams Streets, Springfield, Illinois Telephone 217-789-6565

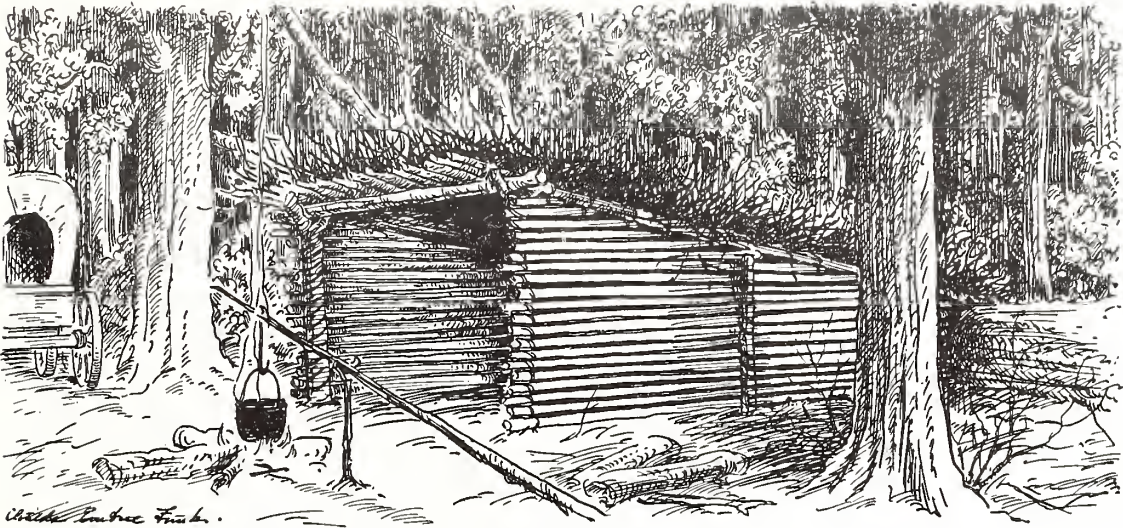
Little Pigeon Creek, Indiana

In 1816, plagued by failure and poverty, and having difficulty proving a clear title to their farm on Knob Creek in Kentucky, Thomas Lincoln, his wife and two children, moved north into the frontier Indiana wilderness, settling at Little Pigeon Creek near the area now known as Lincoln City. The one-room house was built of large logs, hand hewn with axe and adze, and with a log and stick side chimney. Both were caulked with clay or other mud, an American frontier adaptation of the ancient English "wattle and mud" construction method. Now, as the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, the house is a stop along the Lincoln Heritage Trail. Abraham Lincoln and his sister, Sarah, were brought up here, and attended local school sessions. It was here that Lincoln developed a passion for reading and a resultant desire to learn more of the world beyond the split rail boundaries of his father's farm. At 19, he made his first adventurous trip, poling a flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans, into that world.

As a nationally important political figure and candidate for the presidency, Abraham Lincoln denied that as a young man in New Salem he ever had "worked in a grocery"—a contemporary term for any store that sold liquor by the drink. He 'mis-spoke' himself.

January 4, 1833, a few weeks before his twenty-fourth birthday, Lincoln and his general store partner, William F. Berry, were issued a receipt for a license to "retail speritual (sic) liquors."

That original unique document, hand-written in ink on a soft-textured paper of the time, is on display at the Heritage Trail Antiques Show, part of a re-creation of the Berry & Lincoln Store and tavern. The re-creation features the kinds of general merchandise that would have been sold in the river town of New Salem in the 1830s. It is made possible through the generosity of Somerset Importers, Ltd.



Half-faced camp, the first kind of shelter built by pioneers.

PIONEER LIVING IN INDIANA

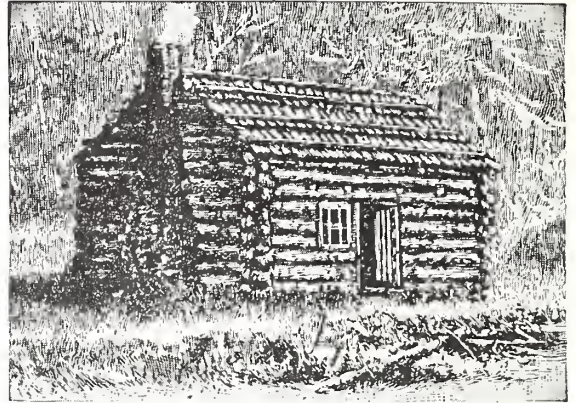
When pioneer families came into southern Indiana, they needed to build shelters as quickly as possible. They first made "half-faced camps" in which to live. The camps were made by setting two large poles with forked tops into the ground a dozen or more feet from a fallen tree. Another pole was laid across the forked poles. Then more poles were laid from the cross-pole down to the fallen tree to make a slanting roof. Over these poles a thick layer of brush was thrown. The two sides were built up of small logs placed one on top of another. The front was left open. Here a fire to cook the food was built. The shelter protected the family from the rain and wild animals during the summer months.

After the father and his sons cleared away some trees and planted their corn, they set about to build a log cabin that would be snug and warm in winter. They chopped down straight trees with their axes and trimmed off the branches. The trunks of the trees were then cut into logs about twenty feet long. The logs were rolled to the place where the cabin was to be built, and the day was set for a "house raising."

A HOUSE RAISING

The pioneer needed the help of his neighbors to put up a log cabin. He sent word around the countryside that on a certain day he would have a house raising. All the pioneer families for miles around gathered to help him. The women came to cook and visit while the men worked. By helping each other they made homes in the wilderness.

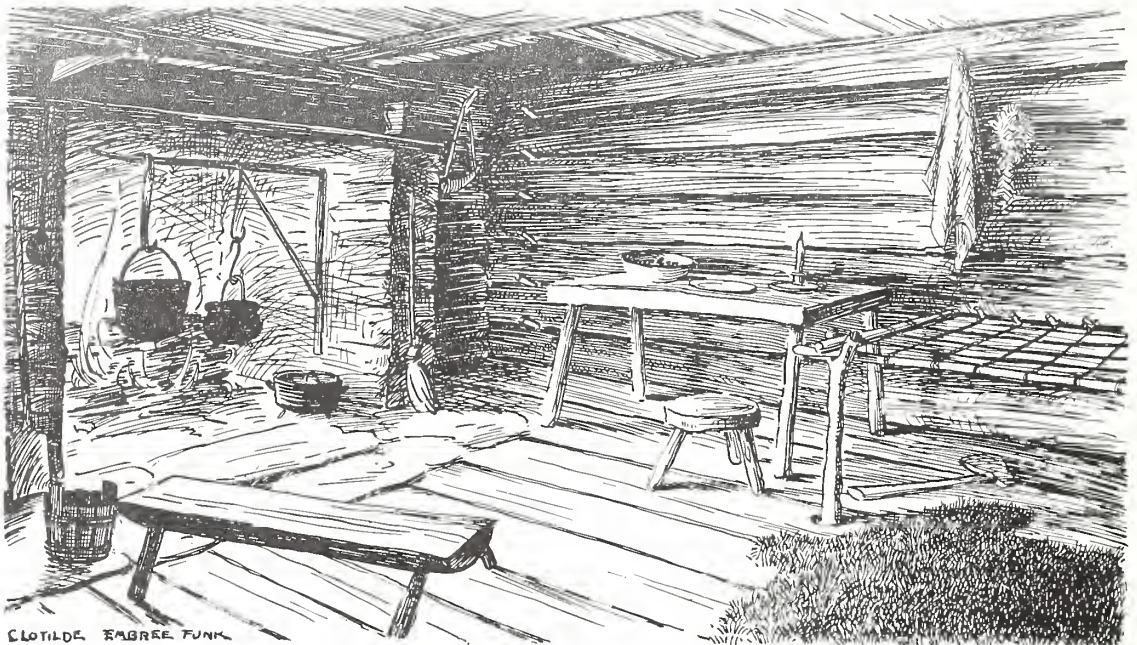
With their axes the men cut deep notches in the ends of the logs. They lifted the logs into place one on top of another, fitting them together in a square by the notches. The four walls of the new cabin rose higher and higher. Four men worked at the corners to keep the walls straight and true. When the walls were higher than a man's head, two gable ends were built up to a point with shorter logs. A long pole, called a ridgepole, was laid across the point of the gables. When this was done, the four corner men stood on their heads on the ridgepole to celebrate.



Common log cabin built in Indiana.

At noon every one was ready for the big dinner on the long tables under the trees. After dinner they all sang songs, played games, danced, or watched races. This was the fun of a house raising. Toward the middle of the afternoon, each family set out for its own home. The neighbors wanted to reach home before dark, for there were streams to cross and poorly marked trails through the woods to follow.

The heavy work of building a cabin was finished, but the pioneer settler and his sons had to finish the house by themselves. They placed poles from the top of the log walls to the ridgepole. Then they laid slabs of wood, called shakes, over them for a roof. Openings were cut in the walls for a door and windows. A chimney was built at one end, either of sticks and clay or of stones and mortar.



Interior of a log cabin. Note ladder of pegs to the loft.

A great stone fireplace was made on the inside. The cracks between the logs of the walls were packed with clay. Sometimes a loft was made by putting a ceiling in the cabin. The children often slept in the loft; they climbed a ladder to get up to it. Finally a floor of rough planks was laid in the cabin. Abraham Lincoln lived in a cabin like this with his mother and father and sister.

At first the cabin windows were left open in the summer and closed with wood shutters in winter. Sometimes oiled paper was used to cover the window. It let in some light and kept out insects. Glass for windows was expensive to buy, and only a few of the pioneer homes had glass windows.

PIONEER FURNITURE AND FOOD

The pioneer family often brought to Indiana with them in their covered wagons or on river boats a chest of drawers, kitchen utensils, bedding, a spinning wheel, and a clock. All other furniture for the cabin had to be made. The dining table was made by splitting a slab three or four inches thick from a large log. This slab was set on pegs for legs. Benches were made of split logs set on short legs. The bed was no more than a post set on the floor near a corner, with two rails

fastened from it to two walls of the cabin. A rope was wound back and forth across the bed to form a web. This was the bed spring. For a mattress a bag of wild grass or straw was laid on the ropes.

In summer the cabin was lighted by the open windows and door. In winter, when the windows and door were closed with shutters to keep out the cold, the fireplace gave most of the light. Candles were made by dipping strings into tallow, which is melted fat, and hanging them up to harden, or by pouring tallow into metal molds containing a string for a wick. Small lamps were made by laying a wick in a saucer of tallow.

The early settlers in southern Indiana had no grocery stores or bakeries where they could buy food. They had to grow their food or hunt for it, but food was plentiful. There were turkeys, prairie chickens, quail, and wild pigeons. There were deer, bears, squirrels and rabbits in the woods, and all kinds of fish in the streams. Children hunted for sweet acorns, nuts, wild plums, and wild berries. Maple syrup and sugar were made in the spring from the sap of the maple trees.

Many pioneer families brought with them a cow, a horse or an ox, a few pigs or some sheep. If they could not bring them on foot or by boat, they bought a few



Two-story, hewn-log house with porches and brick chimneys.

animals as soon as possible, in order to have milk, butter, cheese, meat, and wool. Cattle ate the thick grass, drank from the streams, and wandered in the clearings. Corn and potatoes were easily grown, even among the stumps remaining in the fields. Cabbages, onions, peas, beans, turnips, squashes, and pumpkins were planted in the gardens. If there were children about your age in the family, the father planted some popcorn and watermelons. Cornbread was the common bread. Later, when a mill was built in the neighborhood, flour was used for bread and cake.

A BETTER HOME

The pioneers worked hard to clear the land and raise more corn and wheat. They made larger pastures and could raise more cattle. When they raised more crops and cattle than they needed, they shipped them to the cities in the South and East. After a few years the pioneers could afford better houses and furniture.



Two-story brick house built when settlers could afford a fine home.

Often the settler built a two-story house from logs that were trimmed off square. Overlapping boards might be nailed to the logs to make a neat siding. Or the settler built a large house of brick or stone. The bricks were made of clay and baked hard. Soft limestone was found under the soil in southern Indiana that could be cut into blocks. Some of these early houses are still standing. Usually they had no porch, only a front door in the center. A chimney stood at either end, as every room needed a fireplace for heating. Better furniture was bought for these houses.

The first settlers in northern Indiana lived in log cabins like those in southern Indiana, but not for as long a time. Northern Indiana was settled later, after Indiana had formed a state government and after the southern part had filled with settlers. Northern Indiana was flatter country and large parts of the land were prairies, or grassy plains without any trees at all. So it was easy to have a large farm without having to chop down a lot of trees. Roads were quickly made across the flat open country, and some rivers flowed into Lake Michigan. It was easy to send crops to market and to bring new things home. For these reasons, the settlers in the north prospered quickly. Within three or four years after arriving, these pioneers were able to buy boards and bricks for fine houses and barns.

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CABIN

DRAWER 11A

PIGEON CREEK

